

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-13 JUSE-00
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NOFORN

E.O. 11652:GDS SECRET: SEC-TA-78-0006
TAGS:SNAR/MEX - --,,
SUBJECT: COCA CULTIVATION IN MEXICO. GFTA-75-8056
REF: STATE 041806, DTG/P162348Z FEB 78 (SECRET)

1. THE DEA MEXICO CITY REGIONAL OFFICE (MCRO) HAS NO CONCLUSIVE EVIDENCE THAT COCA IS BEING CULTIVATED IN MEXICO OR THAT VIOLATORS ARE PROCESSING COCA LEAVES INTO COCA PASTE OR COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE. THERE HAVE BEEN INDICATIONS IN THE PAST THAT COCAINE BASE IS BEING SMUGGLED BY PERUVIAN TRAFFICKERS INTO MEXICO FOR FINAL PROCESSING INTO COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE.

2. THE STATEMENTS IN THE REFERENCED FEB.'78 ISSUE OF THE INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS BIWEEKLY REVIEW CONCERNING DEA REPORTING THE "DISCOVERY" OF TWO COCAINE LABORATORIES IN THE STATES OF OAXACA AND SONORA AND THE "DISCOVERY" OF A COCA FIELD IN OAXACA ARE IN NEED OF CLARIFICATION. THE LABORATORIES AND THE COCA FIELD WERE NOT DISCOVERED.

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THEIR EXISTENCE WAS REPORTED BY DEA INFORMANTS. THE INFORMANTS WERE UNABLE TO PRODUCE SAMPLES OF THE LEAVES OR THE COCA PASTE. THE MCRO WAS UNABLE TO VERIFY THE INFORMATION THROUGH OTHER SOURCES OF INFORMATION.

3. THERE ARE REPORTEDLY SEVEN VARIETIES OF COCA THAT GROW WILD IN MEXICO. (1) ERYTHROXYLON TABASCENSIS, (2)

ERYTHROXYLON LUCIDUM, (3) ERYTHROXYLON HAVENESE, (4) ERYTHROXYLON MEXICANUM, (5) ERYTHROXYLON COMPACTUM, (6) ERYTHROXYLON PRINGLEI, AND (7) ERYTHROXYLON PALLIDUM. THESE SPECIES ARE FOUND MAINLY IN SOUTHERN MEXICO IN THE STATES OF VERACRUZ, OAXACA, CHIAPAS AND GUERRERO AT ALTITUDES FROM 450 TO 1800 METERS ABOVE SEA LEVEL. THE COCAINE ALKALOID CONTENT OF THESE SPECIES RANGES FROM 0.4 TO 1.2 AS COMPARED TO 0.5 TO 2 FOR PERUVIAN COCA.

4. IT IS FELT BY THE MCRO THAT IT WOULD BE HIGHLY UN-
LIKELY THAT COCA WOULD BE CULTIVATED IN MEXICO OR THAT
COCA LEAVES WOULD BE SMUGGLED INTO MEXICO FOR PROCESSING.
IN ORDER FOR COCA TO BE PROPERLY IRRIGATED BY THE RAIN
AND RECEIVE SUFFICIENT SUN IT IS NORMALLY PLANTED IN
VERTICAL ROWS ON THE SIDES OF HILLS. DUE TO THIS METHOD
OF PLANTING AND ITS UNIQUE SHADE OF GREEN, IT IS EXTREMELY
EASY TO FIND COCA FIELDS FROM THE AIR. A SECOND ARGUM-
ENT AGAINST MEXICAN CULTIVATION OF COCA IS THE AMOUNT OF
LEAVES NECESSARY TO PRODUCE ONE KILOGRAM OF COCA PASTE.
UTILIZING THE HIGH COCAINE ALKALOID PERUVIAN LEAVES IT IS
NECESSARY TO PROCESS AT LEAST 100 KILOGRAMS OF LEAVES TO
OBTAIN ONE KILOGRAM OF COCA PASTE. APPROXIMATELY TWO
KILOGRAMS OF COCA PASTE ARE NEEDED TO PROCESS ONE KILO-
GRAM OF COCAINE HYDROCHLORIDE. IT SEEMS HIGHLY UNLIKELY
THAT A TRAFFICKER WOULD GO TO THE EXPENSE AND RISK TO
SMUGGLE THE 100 KILOGRAMS OF PERUVIAN COCA LEAVES RATHER
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THAN SPEND THE \$700.00 USC NECESSARY TO OBTAIN A KILO-
GRAM OF COCA PASTE IN PERU. .34\$ (8343. THOMPSON

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NNN

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